Pasadena Citizen

If a suspicious person knocks at the door, call police

12-09-2011

With the recent increase in fraudulent activities committed by persons posing as various service-providers within the Southeast Harris County area, La Porte Police Department wants to remind residents to use caution before allowing anyone access to your home who might be declaring that they are professionals on official business.

At first glance, what appears to be a "normal" event, such as a service technician in a nearby yard or someone knocking at your door in a uniform, may actually be a problem in the making. In the past several weeks, authorities in the greater Houston area have received several reports of would-be thieves, both men and women, dressed in uniform and impersonating utility workers, fire marshals, etc.

These persons look and sound official, and in many cases display badges and/or identification-cards. In at least one of the cases, the suspects were driving what appeared to be an official looking, marked vehicle. All of this, however, appears to be part of an elaborate scheme designed to lower the home-owners guard and allow the thieves to make their way inside the home of unsuspecting victims.

Although there have not been any reported cases of this nature within the City of La Porte, the Police Department is taking steps to educate residents relating to the nature of these type of crimes and asking residents to immediately report any activity they feel is suspicious. The Police Department can also assist in the confirmation of a person's identity when the homeowner is in doubt. Assistance is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week, by calling the Police Department's non-emergency number: 281-471-2141.

Of course, as with all law enforcement and crime prevention efforts, residents are reminded that not everyone is a criminal by any means. Take the time and get to know who your neighbors are, and be cognizant of the fact that there are many legitimate service professionals or contractors working within La Porte all the time. Nevertheless, remember that criminals may also operate under the guise of legitimate business representatives, for if a criminal looked like the typical offender depicted on television, no one would have any trouble spotting them. However, through strong community awareness, sound judgment, and proactive policing, crimes of this nature can be avoided.

For more information on crime prevention tips, please contact the police department at 281-842-3183 or log onto the department website at www.laportetx.gov/police.